

MURRAYLANDS AND RIVERLAND LANDSCAPE BOARD

Minutes

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge Aboriginal people as the First Peoples and Nations of the lands and water we live and work upon, and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge and respect the deep spiritual connection and relationship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have to Country.

Meeting Title: Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board Meeting 4-21			
Date: 27 May 2021			
Start Times:	11.00am		
Location:	Lameroo	Room:	Southern Mallee Council Chambers, Lameroo
Present	<p>Di Davidson (Chair), Andrew Biele, Greg Cock, Barb Cowey, Jim Godden (from 12.30pm), Jason Size,</p> <p>Andrew Meddle (General Manager), Michelle Finch (Business Services Manager), Denise Fowles (Manager, Sustainable Landscapes), Amy Goodman (Manager, Strategy and Engagement) until end Item 8, Helane Norman (Executive Officer)</p> <p>Item 4: Sandy Gunter (Team Leader Communications and Engagement), Jayne Miller (Media and communications)</p> <p>Item 5: Renee Clark (Team Leader Administration), Simon Lease (Senior Management Accountant)</p> <p>Item 6: Jason Taylor (CEO, Southern Mallee District Council), Jeff Nickolls (Mayor (Southern Mallee District Council)</p> <p>Public: Gordon Hancock</p>		
Apologies	Lisa Rowntree		

Item	Item Title
Prior to the Public Meeting an <i>in camera</i> session was held with the General Manager.	
PUBLIC MEETING – 11.00am	
1.	Welcome, Apologies and agenda check Di Davidson, Chair, declared the meeting open at 10.30am and welcomed all present, acknowledging the Aboriginal people as the First Peoples and Nations of the lands and water on which we meet.
2.	Declaration of Interest Further disclosures – Jim Godden is now the Treasurer of the Moorook Field and Game Inc.
3.	Adoption of Minutes from the previous meeting (3-21) held 22 April 2021 <i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board approved the Minutes of Meeting 3-21 held 22 April 2021.</i>

Item	Item Title
Presentations	
4.	<p>Media and Communications Team - Sandy Gunter (Team Leader, Communications and Engagement)</p> <p>The Communications and Engagement Team Leader presented an overview of the communications team giving the board insight into the capacity and capability of members of the team, and the challenges faced by communicating in multiple ways and platforms.</p>
5.	<p>Business Services team – Renee Clark (Administration Team Leader) and Simon Lease (Senior Management Accountant)</p> <p>The Administration Team Leader and Senior Management Accountant summarised the work that is undertaken by the business services team, noting the decrease of 3.4 FTE staff since the transition to the Landscape Board. Financial management including meeting legislative requirements, and customer service along with management of HR, assets, accommodation, records, and board, committee and general Manager support are all carried out by the team.</p> <p>The coming year will see the finalisation of the separation from DEW, new facilities for both main board offices, investigating improvements to customer service through advancements in technology, and development of staff to be able to undertake different roles.</p>
6.	<p>Southern Mallee District Council – Jason Taylor (CEO) and Jeff Nickolls (Mayor)</p> <p>The Chief Executive Officer of the Southern Mallee District Council (SMDC) gave a presentation to the board on the Southern Mallee region, its uniqueness and the Council's strategies and priorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centred on agriculture and richest SEIFA score in MRLGA • Protection of environment and landscapes linked to the richness of the community and importance of the region • Ag town of the year – Pinnaroo • Work to minimise the impacts of climate change • Adopted new strategic plan <p>Draft stage of developing action plan outlining 7 key themes for council, with 4 being relevant to the Landscape Board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Climate smart business and agricultural practices 2. Climate smart landscapes and habitats 3. Climate smart resilient communities – range of documents and communicated with staff and elected members, and also community, partnering other councils. Frost is very high impact also for the region 4. Council leading by example <p>Council and Board collaboration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pest and Weed Grant – funding received by SMDC and Karoonda Council and contracting services of landscape Board staff to manage field operations. Potential to collaborate more on projects like this? • Local Landscape Staff presence and office supported by council– Board are looking at options for rationalising property and keen to get local District officer employed • Better communications about how the NRM levy collection translates to work/projects in Southern Mallee. Council have flyer that goes out with rates, potential to include Landscape info in rates notice as well.

Item	Item Title
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synergy between Council's vision /strategic plan and the Regional Landscape plan. • Peak Roby Sherlock and Mallee Water Allocation plans – preparation for WAP review occurring, with SMDC involvement with the WAP process • Regular connection between staff and between the board and council is vital <p>Other discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change – Council priority which is great to see, PIRSA now have a climate change team which may be able to assist, SM region is fruit fly gate keeper so important for the region. • Good to see opportunities and not just problems. • Education team could also come out to schools in area • Highlight the joint work currently being done. • Murray Mallee Bushfire Management Committee – looking for senior staff to support the work undertaken with a pathway to the Minister
Lunch	
<p>Jaco Pauer (Parilla Premium Potatoes), Daridyn Hayward (Mallee & Coorong Advisory Committee), Jason Taylor and Jeff Nickolls (SMDC) Russell Norman and Geoff Redden (District Officers, Murraylands) and Gordon Hancock (landowner) joined the board for lunch.</p>	
Items for decision	
7.	<p>1.15pm Regional Landscape Plan</p> <p>The Manager, Strategy and Engagement provided the Regional Landscape Plan for adoption by the board, along with the consultation report, as deliberated on at last week's workshop. A letter to the Minister seeking endorsement of the plan was provided for endorsement.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board adopted the final version of the regional landscape plan and supporting consultation report and approved the letter to the Minister seeking endorsement of the regional landscape plan.</i></p> <p>The Board then considered the options for launching the Landscape Plan</p> <p><i>That the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board support option C for the official regional launch of the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Plan.</i></p> <p>The Chair thanked all staff and board members for the effort and input into the development of the Murraylands and Riverland Regional Landscape Plan.</p> <p>ACTION: Chair to sign letter and plan package to be forwarded to Minister.</p>
8.	<p>2021-22 Business Plan</p> <p>The Manager, Strategy and Engagement presented the 2021-2022 business plan for approval by the board, which has been finalised after the consultaion period ended early this month, and the approved plan will be provided to the Minister.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the feedback received on the draft 2021-22 Business Plan and</i></p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board approved the 2021-22 Business Plan as presented in Attachment 2.</i></p>

Item	Item Title
9.	<p>Protection for vegetation of value in the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board area</p> <p>The Manager Sustainable Landscapes presented a paper outlining the options available to the board and landholders for ongoing protection of vegetation who have Monarto plantings.</p> <p>Concern raised, considering investment made in the 70's to establish the plantings that the woodland plantings will be fragmented if not managed correctly. The board suggested that management of the woodlands should fall with DEW under current legislation, and would like to see the community consulted (include all landholders, even if not living in area) Monarto Zoo and the Murray Bridge Council to gain their feelings on the importance of the woodlands in the area.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. Noted the opportunity recent decisions have now presented in our region;</i> <i>b. Noted that the recent decisions made by the Department may result in disquiet by landholders and conservationists, particularly woodland bird enthusiasts and;</i> <i>c. Advised staff to explore this issue further including the consideration of a public meeting.</i>
10.	<p>Response to PIRSA's review of feral goat policy</p> <p>The Manager Sustainable Landscapes provided information on the current PIRSA feral goat policy, and indicated that a letter had been received from PIRSA seeking the Board's position on the Feral Goat Policy, prior to a potential upcoming review. The presented paper provided PIRSA's 5 preferred options for managing goats across the landscape.</p> <p>Goats are a good source of revenue for landholders in the region, so disappointing to just cull them. The board would like a nuanced presentation from PIRSA including the economic impact of goats within our region, and programs that have been run successfully in other regions. Input to be sources from staff and the Mallee and Coorong Advisory Committee.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. Noted the region's position on feral goat management to date;</i> <i>b. Approved participation in a potential Feral Goat Policy review;</i> <i>c. Noted PIRSA's offer to present to the board on this topic and take PIRSA up on this offer for a presentation, nuanced to reflect this region.</i> <i>d. Endorsed seeking input from MRLB staff and the Mallee and Coorong Advisory Committee as part of the response</i> <i>e. Noted the activities the Board currently undertakes in relation to feral goat management.</i> <p>ACTION: Place goats on agenda for Mallee and Coorong Advisory committee ACTION: Request nuanced presentation from PIRSA</p>
Committees & Sub-Committees	
11.	<p>Finance Committee – 20 May 2021</p> <p>The minutes from the Finance committee meeting held 20 May 2021 were provided to the board , and the chair of the Finance committee provided an overview of the board's finances.</p>

Item	Item Title
	<p>A draft Service Level Agreement with DEW for services has been for the period 12 April 2021 – June 30 2022, but there are numerous amendments being requested.</p> <p>Information provided on funding being received and being distributed was well received.</p> <p>Additional funding received include the Landscape Priorities Fund project (Returning Functionality to South Olary Plains) and Water Infrastructure Operations funding.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board accepts the minutes from the finance committee.</i></p> <p>ACTION: Check the date of appointment of the independent Finance committee member.</p> <p><i>Gordon Hancock left the meeting.</i></p>
12.	<p>Water Advisory Committee – 30 April 2021</p> <p>Minutes of the Water Advisory meeting held 30 April 2021 were provided to the board.</p> <p>The Water Advisory Committee report to the Board. The Committee will be reviewed and an independent chair could be considered. Plan to increase the size of the committee from the lower region.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the Committee's discussion about water literacy, and accepted the minutes from the Water Advisory Committee.</i></p> <p>ACTION: Contact Tracey Strugnell re membership on the WAC.</p> <p>ACTION: Board Chair and GM to review the WAC TOR and consider the appointment of an independent chair.</p> <p>ACTION: To provide feedback on the Water Literacy proposals following the WAC and Water Planning Steering Committee input</p>
13.	<p>Mallee and Coorong Advisory Committee – 19 April 2021</p> <p>Minutes of the Mallee and Coorong Advisory Committee meeting held 19 April were provided to the board. The Manager Sustainable Landscapes highlighted correspondence received by the committee regarding damage occurring to road reserves as a result of motorbike riding, which is one of the items that the committee are looking to have on the agenda of the LG meeting in July.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board accepted the minutes from the Mallee and Coorong Advisory Committee and noted the Committee's concerns about motorbike damage on road reserves.</i></p> <p>ACTION: Board to respond to the committee, who can respond to the landowner who raised the issue of motorbikes.</p>
14.	<p><i>Significant or sensitive committee items</i></p> <p>Roadside vegetation and management has been an issue with every council, and will be a focus for the General Manager and will drive the LG forum in July.</p>
Other items	
15.	<p>Chair's Report</p> <p>The Chair provided a verbal report on her activities since the March Board meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended <u>State Landscape Strategy Day</u> on 6 May in Adelaide – Department will turn information into a strategy and an action plan.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended <u>Landscape Board Chairs forum</u> on 7 May in Adelaide <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Speaker - PIRSA CE Michelle Edge on relationship between Landscape Boards and PIRSA ◦ Aboriginal engagement – suggest aboriginal or first nations terminology ◦ Board elections – will be one prior to November 2022, separate to council elections but around the same time. • Attended <u>Water Planning Steering committee</u> meeting on 11 May. • Attended <u>Water Advisory committee</u> meeting on 30 April. • Attended Board performance review workshop 20 May. <p>Other items</p> <p>New \$60m WEP program will be managed by the state. Pressure needs to be maintained to keep the both the first and the new WEP's moving.</p> <p>Attended MDBA tour looking at water deliverability and water shortages around the south western NSW and north eastern Victoria. Noted new large investment in Almonds in NSW. Board member raised that the sentiment appears to be that the benefits from the WEP's are funding new plantations,</p>
16.	<p>General Manager's Report</p> <p>The General Manager provided a report on his undertakings along with the highlights and achievements of staff since the last report, and includes the Board referrals report for April.</p> <p>The General Manager has been the board's representative on the Murray Mallee Bushfire Management Committee meetings with Manager Sustainable Landscapes as Proxy. The committee are looking at more input from us, with resilience a high priority for Local Government.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karoonda farm fair, room for improvement in regard to width of marquee and ability of engagement. • Report under the five priorities, could board consider proportionally dividing the levy funds into the five priorities <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the April General Manager's Report.</i></p> <p>ACTION: The Board to review the grassroots grants criteria (discuss divide between RLP priorities) well before the 2022 call.</p>
17.	<p>Monthly Performance Report</p> <p>The General Manager provided the April 2021 Monthly Performance Report which provides a succinct snapshot of activities against the the regional priorities and focus areas of the 20-21 Transitional Business Plan.</p> <p><i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the April 2021 Monthly Performance Report.</i></p>
18.	<p><u>Grants - Natural Resource Management (NRM) Drought Resilience Program</u></p> <p>A successful grant was received by the Sustainable Farming program from the Future Drought Fund: Natural Resource Management (NRM) Drought Resilience Grants Program which was titled '<i>Regenerative opportunities for increasing resilience in low rainfall farming systems</i>'.</p> <p>The board congratulate the staff on their success and note that the Future drought fund (FDF) is large, and it would be useful to get an overview of projects under the FDF, link all projects creating a holistic FDF snapshot to look at obvious gaps and opportunities in the future.</p>

Item	Item Title
	<i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board noted the successful grant application to the Future Drought Fund: Natural Resource Management (NRM) Drought Resilience Program - Grants</i>
19.	Potential Partnerships Board members are asked to look for opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • as we go about our lives can be either time, talent or money, • with Philanthropic or private foundations, or businesses looking to give back to their community, that might have funds for a specific program with mutual benefit. • for stewarding funds for groups and volunteer organisations or putting companies/parties in touch with groups who have projects instead of getting the money ourselves. ACTION: Board members and GM to work on partnerships.
20.	Correspondence The correspondence was presented to the Board. <i>The Board noted the correspondence.</i>
21.	Action List All actions have been completed ACTION: Drought Policy - Incorporate things going on with other parties in the drought policy space, into our policy.
22.	Member's Contributions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board noted a cautionary concern regarding its support for 'regenerative farming' and how that could be perceived by many farmers as being exclusive of other farming systems which also have laudable attributes. • Riverland Volunteer event held Sunday 23 May was attended by about 70 people, thanks to the Board members that attended. Native plants as gifts will be replicated at the Murraylands volunteer celebration.
23.	In Camera Meeting <i>The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board approved under the provisions of Section 23 (5) of the Landscape South Australia Act 2019, an order be made that the public be excluded from attendance at the meeting with the exception of the General Manager, ELT members and Executive Officer, in order to consider, in confidence, two matters on the grounds of</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Section 7(3) (a) information the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead);</i> • <i>Section 7(3) (d) commercial information of a confidential nature (not being a trade secret) the disclosure of which—</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) <i>could reasonably be expected to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied the information, or to confer a commercial advantage on a third party; and</i> (ii) <i>would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest;</i> <i>of the Landscape South Australia (General) Regulations 2020.</i>
	Next meeting details – June 24 th 2021 at Tailem Bend Council Chambers

Item	Item Title
	A visit to the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board Lamerook offices followed the In-Camera meeting.
	Meeting closed at 4pm.

ENDORSED



Dianne Davidson AM

Presiding Member

Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board

Date: